



01/10/2022

To
Montgomery County Council,

Happy New Year. I hope everyone in the council had a great holiday season and were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. This new proposal for Vaccine Passport in Montgomery county as you can imagine is quite troubling for the hotel industry and other businesses alike.

First, let me acknowledge the excellent work that has been done in Montgomery County in getting the population vaccinated. It is truly an outstanding achievement that we are one of the most highly vaccinated counties in the country.

However, given that the virus now travels through the vaccinated population just as easily as unvaccinated albeit perhaps not affecting the vaccinated as seriously those unvaccinated, I see this proposal as doing nothing but put an undue burden on businesses that are already struggling.

Our hotels have been again severely impacted by the rise of Omicron cases and there is hardly any business coming in. If the vaccine passport is implemented, it will lead to further reduction in travel to the hotels in Montgomery county. This will again lead to more lay-offs and reduced hours for our workforce which will severely impact them. We are already grappling with higher costs due to inflation and shortages of products. This will be a double whammy for the staff.

When this mandate was put into effect for DC , several groups reached out to hotels in Montgomery County hotels and are trying to relocate from DC due to this mandate. These groups along with I'm sure those already booked in Montgomery County hotels will, I'm sure do the same and try to relocate if the County institutes vaccine "passports".

Given that there are no such mandates in place in our neighboring counties and states, including VA we will be sure to lose business as they relocate to those areas. Additionally, from a business operations perspective, trying to find and pay for the additional labor in a time of shortages and severe downturn of business would be extremely difficult especially for hotels which are open 24/7.

I request the council to not back this proposal.

Thank you,

VIVIN KURIAKOSE | GENERAL MANAGER
Gaithersburg Marriott Washingtonian Center
9751 Washingtonian Boulevard, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
T: 301.590.0044 M: 301.278.6433
www.marriott.com/WASWG